



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2006



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City of Falls Church Police Chief Robert T. Murray to Retire

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – City of Falls Church Acting City Manager Wyatt Shields today announced the retirement of Police Chief Robert T. Murray, effective Dec. 1, 2006. Chief Murray has held the position since June 1994. He has also served as the City's Public Safety Director and Coordinator of Emergency Services since 1996.

“Bob Murray is the consummate law enforcement professional,” said Shields. “He led the Department through the demanding process of state accreditation, and has always seen to it that his staff is the best trained and best equipped force possible. I have enjoyed working with him and know he can take pride in his work here for the City.”

With 37 years of experience in all facets of police work, the Chief has brought strong leadership, innovation, and diversity to the Department. In 1998, he managed the Department's first state accreditation through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC). He developed the City's emergency management practices through the establishment of an Emergency Operations Center, an Emergency Operations Plan, and trainings for emergency personnel. He led the implementation of a computer-aided dispatch system (CAD/RMS), allowing electronic integration of reports from the field into the records management system. He also oversaw the implementation of the Department's 800 MHz radio system to facilitate communications between various law enforcement and fire departments throughout the region through the use of compatible technologies.

Chief Murray expanded diversity in the Department and encouraged growth from within and career development. During his 13-year tenure with the Department, the Chief oversaw the promotion of more than 30 personnel—a significant number for a department comprised of approximately 54 personnel (including civilians, crossing guards, technicians, and sworn officers).

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“I’ve enjoyed the friends I’ve made, the people I’ve worked with, and the people who have supported me in my 13 years of service with the Department,” said Chief Murray.

Chief Murray began his career in Fairfax County as a patrol officer and rose through the ranks to obtain the position of Major before retiring from the County in 1994 after 24 years of service. Regionally, he served as Chairman of the Council of Governments (COG) Police Chiefs Subcommittee from 1997-1998. He is a member and past Chairman of the Executive Board of the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission; and is a member of the Northern Virginia Chiefs of Police Association, the Arlington County/Falls Church Alcohol Safety Action Program Board, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the FBI National Academy Associates, and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police.

“Chief Murray’s service over the past 13 years has helped make our City a safer and more enjoyable place. He has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to protecting our community, and has implemented successful community policing, emergency operations, information technology and other such enhancements to continually improve the public safety services provided to our community,” said Mayor Robin S. Gardner.

Prior to Chief Murray’s Dec. 1 departure, Shields will appoint an Acting Chief of Police to serve in that capacity until a permanent replacement is appointed.

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Note: A photo of Chief Robert T. Murray is attached. Photo Credit: City of Falls Church.